BULLETINS AND PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

INCANDESCENT GAS LIGHTING INDUSTRY

BEADED FRINGE

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BEADED FRINGE



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INCIDENT with the development of decorated glassware, beaded fringe has become a very important factor in connection with artistic decorative illumination. Large quantities of these fringes have been distributed through our Sales Departments for use with various forms of Welsbach lighting. Imported fringes exclusively are handled by the Welsbach Company, and a brief description of the different char-

acters of these fringes and their methods of manufacture should be of interest.

Beads for fringe are divided into two general types: Cut beads and seed beads. The genuine cut beads are made in the same manner as ordinary cut glass, where every plane is ground on a wheel or stone and polished with great care to produce perfect geometric figures and sharp angles and "facets." Unless the design is good and the workmanship well executed, this class of beads has little or no decorative value. The cost of manufacture must necessarily be very high, and the cut beads have not met with general public favor. Imitation cut beads are now on the market, but they are easily detected by the imperfect angles and facets and the lack-lustre appearance.

The large volume of our sales has been in fringes made from seed beads. There are two varieties of seed beads: one made from solid color glass and the other made from crystal glass colored by a dyeing process. The latter style is very much more generally used, owing to the fact that it is possible to produce a greater variety of brilliant colors and delicate shades, and also to the fact that it is very much cheaper than a fringe made from solid colored beads.

by mixing in the pot of glass from which the beads are to be made, while it is in the molten condition, some mineral substance which produces a colored glass. Glasses colored in this way are known as "Pot Colored" glasses. The variety and shade of color in this class of beads are limited to the comparatively few pot colors known in the art of glass making. A careful examination of a bead made from pot colored glass will show that the color is uniform through the glass, and also that the sur-

face of the bead presents a "satiny" or lack-lustre finish when compared with the brilliant, shiny finish of the dyed bead.

DYED BEADS. Dyed Beads are made from crystal glass and are colored by a skilful dyeing operation after the beaded fringe is made. The dye takes effect on the fabric on which the beads are mounted and also coats the surface of the beads themselves. An examination of a broken bead will enable one to identify a dyed bead because the color is confined entirely to the surface of the glass, while on a solid colored bead the glass is uniformly colored throughout. Dyed beads are also easy to distinguish on account of their brilliant surface lustre, and they lend themselves more readily to decorative illumination on account of the unlimited variety of shades and colors which can be produced.

MANUFACTURE OF SEED BEADS. In the first step in the manufacture of seed beads for fringe, the

glass maker draws a long tube of the proper diameter to form the bead desired. This tube is cut into short lengths, sufficiently long to form the bead. These short sections of glass tube are placed in a heated "rumbler" or revolving barrel, where they are rolled for several days in such a way that they come in contact with each other, and the abrasion removes the sharp corners and edges and renders the bead practically spherical. Modifications of this method are used by different manufacturers to accomplish this result, but the general principle of rumbling is basic.

Where it is intended to use these beads for dyed fringe they are made from "crystal" or clear glass, while in the solid colored fringes the tubes are drawn from pot colored glass.

MANUFACTURE OF FRINGE. The finished beads are sold by the glass manufacturer to a fringe agent. This

transaction is based on a price per kilo of beads without regard to the size. The beads are shipped by the agent to the Austrian villages, where they are "farmed" out to the peasants of the neighborhood for the purpose of making the fringe. The peasants who do this work are equipped with suitable looms for weaving the guimpe. The beads are assembled on the strings by hand, and these strings carrying the beads are woven into the guimpe. The work of making the fringe is apportioned among the entire family, so that each member, from the little children to the old people, has a certain operation to perform towards the completion of the work. The peasants return their mounted fringe to the agent, who completes the manufacturing operation by dyeing it to the color desired, unless it is to be sold as a crystal fringe or is a pot colored bead. The fringe is then wrapped on cards of 5 or 10 meters each and prepared for shipment.



BEADED FRINGE IN LIBRARY DECORATION

A casual examination of a sample of our fringe will enable one to distinguish it as a genuine handmade fringe and not an imitation by the manner in which the threads carrying the beads are woven into the guimpe. In the imitation handmade fringes the threads carrying the beads are sewed into a band which forms the guimpe, and the material, workmanship and general character of the product is cheap. Furthermore, you will notice in our fringes slight irregularities, which characterize it as work which has been done by hand and by different individuals.

Many of the popular fringes on the market have been produced from designs and suggestions supplied by us, and our organization, by virtue of its direct relations with the makers, is able to develop the manufacture and improve the value of beaded fringe as an important factor in artistic and effective decorative illumination.



APPLICATION OF BEADED FRINGE
TO REFLEX INVERTED LIGHTS



SECTION OF BEADED FRINGE SHOWING HAND-WOVEN GUIMPE



METHOD OF MOUNTING BEADED FRINGE
ON SHADE RINGS

